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Handwritten: *Roestel/BR*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Geographic Information

ROESTEL, Franz

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

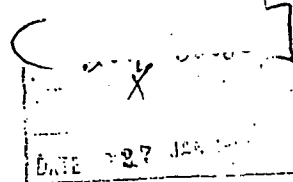
ROESTEL, FRANZ

(The following biographic information on Roestel is based on SS personnel records on file in the Berlin Document Center)

1. Career: Roestel was born on May 4, 1902 at Goerlitz, Silesia into a family of small landowners. From 1908 to 1922 Roestel attended school in Goerlitz. In 1923 he entered the Prussian police, serving as a patrolman in Cottin. He was promoted to lieutenant of police in 1925 and was transferred to the staff of Police Group "Southeast" in Berlin. In February 1927 he resigned from the police and went to South West Africa. From 1927 to 1933 he remained in Southwest Africa, working first as a farmer, and later as a mining and transport official in the "Consolidated Diamond Mines of Southwest Africa, Ltd." He returned to Germany in 1933 and became active in the German Labor Service (Reichsarbeitsdienst), attaining in 1935 the rank of Stabsleiter. In August 1939 he was activated into the Wehrmacht (German Army).

2. Military Career: Roestel received his commission as a reserve second lieutenant on June 1, 1938. After his activation in August 1939, he participated in the Polish campaign, receiving the Iron Cross, second class, for bravery in the battle of Lenberg. From October 1939 to May 1940 he was stationed on the Siegfried Line. After participating in the invasion of France as an artillery officer, Roestel was transferred to the occupation forces in Poland. He received a promotion to 1st lieutenant (reserve) on October 25, 1940. From November 1940 to March 1941 he was stationed in Germany. On March 26, 1941 he volunteered for and was accepted into the so-called "storm artillery" of the German Army. After extensive schooling and training in the storm artillery, Roestel was assigned to a unit which entered into action on the southern Russian front in July 1941. He spent from July 1941 to April 1942 on the Russian front, and was wounded three times. On April 1, 1942 Roestel was promoted to the rank of reserve captain. After a period of convalescence at a lazaret in Hohenlychen, Roestel requested and was granted permission to transfer from the Army to the SS. He entered the SS in March 1943 as a Sturmabfuhrer (major). After commanding the storm artillery unit of a newly-created SS division, Roestel was promoted to Obersturmbannfuhrer (lieutenant colonel) and became commandant of the Bukowan Storm Artillery School on November 20, 1943. In June 20, 1944 he was relieved of that assignment and transferred to the SS Division Frundsberg.

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ROESTEL, Franz (continued)

3. Efficiency Reports: An efficiency report of September 1943, signature illegible, states that "Roestel, a holder of the German Cross in gold, distinguished himself not only in combat, but also as a student of storm artillery tactics. He is energetic, has a widely-developed teaching ability, and his promotion to Obersturmbann-fuehrer is therefore fully justified."

An efficiency report of April 5, 1944 signed by Standartenfuehrer Gutherlet says that Roestel handles all matters well, but that he does not always finish what he begins, and that he does not get along well with his associates, probably because he tries to derive personal benefit from individual situations.

4. Miscellaneous: Roestel lists as occupations "police officer" and "farmer". He speaks English. Roestel married Santa-Maria Peters-Hollenberg on February 24, 1927. He is the father of a daughter Ute-Maleen, born February 16, 1931, and of three sons: Franz Rudo, born July 4, 1935, Merten Roderich, born July 7, 1938, and Arne Ruediger, born August 22, 1940. Roestel joined the Nazi Party on May 1, 1937.

OLI:BI

November 1956

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